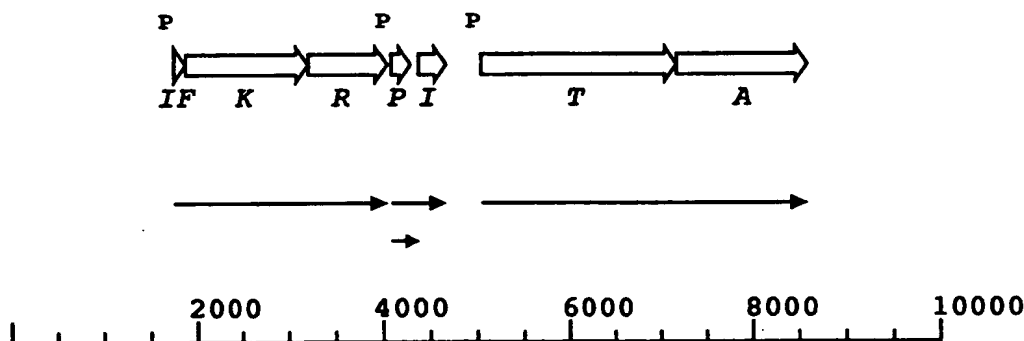




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(54) Title: EXPRESSION SYSTEM IN MICROORGANISM AND ITS USE FOR EXPRESSING HETEROLOGOUS AND HOMOLOGOUS PROTEINS

**(57) Abstract**

The present invention concerns the discovery of a new regulatory mechanism for gene expression in lactic acid bacteria (LAB), especially *Lactobacillus sake* LTH673 or *Lactobacillus plantarium* C11, that includes previously unrecognized strongly regulable promoter elements. The essential finding is that the expression of genes under the control of a promoter element dependent on the expression of the IF-K-R gene cluster. The expression of the IF-K-R gene cluster is autoinduced by the secreted peptide encoded by IF, thus providing a regulable expression system for a desired protein. The invention further comprises the purified IF protein.